

Eastern Lehigh Valley Softball



2018 Official Playing Rules

EASTERN LEHIGH VALLEY SOFTBALL LEAGUE

2018 FALL 8, 9 & 10 LEVEL SOFTBALL RULES

- The game time is 1:45 minutes. If the visiting team is batting and behind, finish the inning. If the home team is behind, finish the inning. If the home team is ahead and batting, the game concludes at that point. **A tie is a legitimate result.**

No new inning starts after 120 minutes. If a new inning starts before the time limit you play out the inning – **the game doesn't revert back to the previous inning** – the home team bats and finishes the game.

- Time starts when ground rules break. The next inning starts when the 3rd out of the previous inning is made.
- A maximum of 4 innings shall be pitched in a game, with only one reentry per pitcher per game, **but the fourth (4th) inning for a pitcher can only occur, if the game reaches seven (7) innings.** Only use drafted pitchers. If circumstances require a non-designated pitcher to pitch, approval will be needed from the Fall Ball Administrators ahead of time.
- If you only have one pitcher show up for the game, talk to the coach before the game. You can pitch your one pitcher for the whole game, but your opponent has the opportunity to just pitch one pitcher. If you want to pitch a girl that hasn't evaluated to finish out the game, do it and we will work it out later. We would rather have the game played than have a forfeit!
- No infield or outfield warm ups are allowed. The pitcher will get 5 warmups for their first inning per game played, only 3 warm ups in additional innings.
- Only 1 offensive and 1 defensive conference shall be held per inning. After the initial conference with the pitcher, she must be taken out on the next visit to the mound.
- No player shall sit consecutive innings defensively.
- A running batting order is to be used. Innings will finish at a 6 run cap. Should additional runs score on the final play, the score for the inning will revert back to 6. The 6 run cap rule does not apply in the sixth (6th) inning, or any inning thereafter, where three (3) outs are required.
- Late arrivals are to be added to the bottom of the original batting order.
- A collision rule shall be in effect. A fielder may not block any base unless she is in possession of the ball. A base runner must slide or give herself up to avoid a collision. If a baserunner does not slide and nothing more than incidental contact occurs, the runner shall not be declared out.

- All games are to be played. All rainouts are to be rescheduled and played. The league will cancel any games due to inclement weather. You will be notified no less than 1 and one half hours if at all possible before your scheduled game time by the statistician. **COACHES WILL NOT CANCEL OR RESCHEDULE GAMES.**
- Scores will be kept at all games. Standings will be kept. Playoffs will be held.
- PIAA Rules shall be used. One paid umpire per game will be furnished. The bases will be set at 60' and the Pitcher's Mound will be set at 43'.
- Catchers will be immediately pulled from a base to get ready to go back on the field and replaced with the last out from that inning or the previous inning should she be the leadoff hitter.
- The team taking the field will have a 90 second time limit to be ready to start play. At the 90 second mark a batter will be awarded a ball and 1 ball every 5 seconds after that point. If she is walked the fielding team will have 10 seconds to be ready or balls will be awarded to the next batter in the same 5 second intervals.
- If the catcher is batting with two outs, it is that team's responsibility to inform the umpire. Should she make the third out they will be given 150 seconds to get the girls on the field, at the 150 second mark a ball will be awarded to the batter and 1 ball every 10 seconds after that. If the announced girl does not go in as the catcher that team will be awarded an out when they come back in to bat.
- These rule adjustments are to keep the games moving. It's only fair to the girls to get them as much playing time in a short amount of time. AGAIN, prepare your lineups the night before the games.
- Regular spring rules apply except for the above changes for fall.

DO NOT RUN UP THE SCORE!

If you have a big lead, change pitchers (Starter can always reenter). Stop stealing, taking extra bases etc. This is the coach's responsibility.

Have the girls run on and off the field between innings. Have your catcher and pitcher ready to take the field. Use 5 warm up pitches first appearance, 3 every additional inning. Keep the game moving. Make your position assignments the night before the game or worst case before the inning is over, not after the inning.

EASTERN LEHIGH VALLEY SOFTBALL LEAGUE

2018 EIGHTH & NINTH GRADE LEVEL RULES

General Rules

1. Game times
 - a. Weekday game time is 6:00 PM. Saturday game times begin at 11:00 AM. Exceptions are permitted and will be indicated on the schedules.
2. Length of game and minimum playing time of players.
 1. Seven (7) innings.
 - a. A running batting order is mandatory.
 - b. Each player must play at least three (3) innings in the field in a seven (7) inning game or a minimum of two (2) innings in any game of less than 7 innings that is shortened due to darkness, weather or mercy rule. **No player shall sit for consecutive innings.**
3. Dimensions - The pitching rubber shall be forty-three (43) feet from the back of the plate and the bases will be set at sixty (60) feet.
4. Complete Games
 1. In the event of bad weather or darkness, a game shall be considered complete after five (5) innings, or four and one half innings if the home team is leading.
 2. In the event that the home team is ahead by ten (10) runs after four and one half innings, or the visiting team is ahead by ten (10) runs after the five (5) innings.
5. Equipment
 - a. Balls
 1. The home team shall supply one new ball and one backup ball for each game.
 - a. A twelve (12) inch ASA .47 approved optic yellow softball shall be used for play. Red-stitching is mandatory.
 - b. Bats
 1. All bats must be 2004 ASA or BESR certified softball bats.
 - c. Helmets
 1. Batters and base runners must wear protective helmets with attached facemasks and chin straps.
 - d. Pitching Facemasks shall be optional but **highly recommended** for all pitchers
 - e. All coaches are required to have first aid kits at all practices and games. A pair of rubber gloves must be available.
 - f. Hit sticks may not be used during games.
 - g. Metal cleats may not be worn.

6. Rosters.

- a. Minimum size
 1. 11 player minimum unless exception is approved by league board.
- b. Minimum players needed for game is eight (8), at which the team will be assessed an automatic out in the ninth (9th) batting position. No automatic out will be charged provided there are nine (9) players in the line-up. If there are less than eight (8) players, the offending team will FORFEIT the game to the opposing team.
- c. Bringing up of players.
 1. Sixth/Seventh Grade players may be brought up to the on a ninth (9th) and tenth (10th) player per game basis. All players who have been brought up may not play any more innings than the regularly rostered players. The player must play at her primary level if they have a game the same day.
 2. Sixth/Seventh Grade players pitching will be restricted to three (3) appearances per current season. These appearances shall be permitted only in the event of sickness, injury, or vacation. Additional appearances will be permitted by league approval only.

Sixth/Seventh Grade players playing at this level will be restricted to five (5) appearances per current season. Additional appearances will be permitted by league approval only. Should a player make more than five (5) appearances without league approval, all games in which she participated shall be declared a forfeit.

3. All coaches will receive copies of each team's league roster. Names of any player added to the league roster will be will be Furnished to all coaches by the league statistician

7. Game Procedures

- a. Game rainouts, cancellations & make ups
 1. All rainouts and cancellations must be replayed by the first Sunday following the date of the cancellation. In the event of two rainouts/cancellations in the same week, the second game must be made up by the second Sunday following the date of the second cancellation.
 - i. Failure to follow this rule will result in the offending team being charged with a forfeit or being fined \$25.00 at the league's discretion, or both for repeat offenders. The league will have the option to reschedule the game.
 - ii. Lineup must be exchanged prior to the game and be approved by the umpire.
 - iii. If a coach moves a game after the umpires have been scheduled, a \$5.00 fine will be assessed to the requesting (offending) organization rather than having the league assume this cost. Any show up fees due the umpires shall be paid by the offending organization as well.

b. Scorekeeping

1. Scores will be kept by both teams.

- a. Each team will hand in a line-up to the opposing team that will consist of last name, first initial, number. The line-up shall also include position. All players playing up shall be identified with an asterisk (*). Failure to identify players playing up will be considered illegal players and a forfeit will be declared.

1. The winning team is responsible for submitting the scores to the statistician. Players playing up shall be submitted for each game as well.
2. Failure to send the information to the statistician within twenty-four (24) hours will result in a five dollar (\$5.00) fine, payable at the next league meeting.

b. Protest Fee

1. A fee of \$25.00 must accompany a written protest within 24 hours of the the umpire in compliance with the "protest rules". The fee will be \$25.00 and will be returned if the protest is upheld. The league administrator must be notified of any protest.

Batting

1. A running batting order that includes all players shall be used.
2. In the event a team has eight players at the start of a game they will be charged with an automatic out in the ninth (9th) batting position. Any player arriving late shall be added to the end of the batting order. If players arriving after the line-ups have been exchanged and the other team is not made aware of the changes prior to the first pitch being thrown, they will take an out when the batting position comes up the first time.
3. If a team can field nine (9) players, there will be no automatic out.
4. In the event the ninth (9th) batter leaves the game for the injury or illness, that team will be charged with an automatic out, however that player may re-enter the game at any time.
5. The strike zone shall be from the top of the shoulders to the middle of the knees and shall include the white and black portions of the plate.

Pitching

1. Pitching rules from PIAA are acceptable
2. All eligible pitchers must be 14 years of age on July 31, 2017

Base Running

1. All PIAA Rules apply

Defense/Fielding

1. All PIAA rules apply

Post Season

1. All playoff games must be played in their entirety. Any game that isn't completed will be completed the following night. In the event there is a game scheduled the following night, the incomplete game will take precedence and shall be completed prior to the start of the regularly scheduled playoff game.
2. Team eligibility
 - a. The top four or five teams from each division will be eligible for the playoffs (see below). In the event a balanced schedule has been played and a fifth (5th) place team in one division has a better record than the fourth (4th) team in the other division, a play-in game between them will be held with the winner qualifying for the playoffs as the fourth (4th) seed. This rule applies to divisions of six (6) or more teams.
 - b. In the event of an unbalanced schedule, a one-half (1/2) game differential in the final standings caused by one team having an additional regularly scheduled game, shall be considered a tie for the standings position in question.
Example: One team finishes the season with an 8-8 record and a second team has an 8-7 record.
 - c. After the first round of playoffs have been completed, the seeding of the remaining teams will be established as follows:
 - a. Season Record
 - b. Head-to-Head Competition
 - c. Divisional Playoff Winning Percentage
 - d. Runs Allowed
 - e. Coin Toss
3. Player Eligibility
 - a. A player must play in at least one-half (1/2) of the regular season games.

Game Conduct

1. Any coach or player ejected from a game is automatically suspended from their next game. The ejected person will not be allowed to participate, coach or attend the game.
2. Assistant coaches will be permitted to coach the other teams players if it is done in a positive manner. They may not address or engage the opposing coaches or umpires. Arguing or discussing a rule or call with the opposing coaches or the umpire will result in an ejection of that coach.
3. Any parent who steps on the field of play for reasons other than an injury will be ejected from the game.
4. Persons behind the Backstop
 - a. No one will be permitted behind the backstop. One warning will be issued by the umpire. On the second offense, the offending team will be assessed an out.